



USAID | MACEDONIA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

USAID provides \$20 thousand worth of premium computer equipment to Macedonian schools

On April 24, 2008, the USAID Primary Education Project (PEP) marked the donation of 130 top-of-the-line portable computers, accessories and software to nine pilot primary schools in Macedonia. Designed for classroom use, the cable-free "Earthwalk" laptops feature waterproof keyboard protectors, wireless internet, and remote long-life batteries. When not used, the laptops are stored and recharged in special cabinets that can be affixed to the wall or the floor for security.

"Up to sixteen laptops can be recharged from one socket, which means great energy savings and no need for special cabling or networking. This is ideal for small schools with no dedicated computer labs," said Petar Nikoloski, Coordinator of the PEP Information and Communication Technology component.

"We hope that lessons learned from these pilot schools will help the Government to identify the best computer solutions for its 'Computer for Every Child' initiative," commented Dr. Keith Prenton, PEP Chief of Party.

PEP works with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Secretariat for Information Society to support the 'Computer for Every Child' initiative by developing software and training primary school teachers. The project also renovates schools, improves the quality of math and science education, and promoted quality school-based assessment.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.